

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 9226

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT VELASCO SOLICITS SUPPORT FROM COMMUNIST
TRADE UNION

1. THE COMMUNIST TRADE UNION CGTP HAS INFORMED THE PRESS OF AN OCTOBER 28 MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT VELASCO AND CGTP LEADERS. PRESIDENT VELASCO USED THE INTERVIEW TO CALL UPON ALL PERUVIAN WORKERS TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES IN THEIR EFFORT TO ACHIEVE REVOLUTIONARY GOALS CONTAINED IN THE PLAN INCA. VELASCO STRESSED THE NEED FOR CONTINUED STRUGGLE TOWARD "FULL SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF OUR COUNTRY."

2. FOR ITS PART THE CGTP PLEDGED TO JOIN WITH THE ARMED FORCES AND THE PEOPLE IN DEFENSE OF REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES. UNION LEADERS ASSURED VELASCO OF CGTP LOYALTY AND DISCIPLINE IN COUNTERING DANGERS WHICH THREATEN PERU, AMONG THEM SEDITIOUS ACTS OF APRA AND THE ULTRA-LEFT WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT. THE CGTP LAMENTED THE FACT THAT AN ANTI-CGTP CAMPAIGN CARRIED OUT BY SOME ENTERPRISES HAD THE TACIT SUPPORT OF CERTAIN LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

3. COMMENT: VELASCO'S MEETING WITH THE CFTP POINTS TO A GOP LABOR POLICY OF A LEAST TWO TRACKS. ONE CONSISTS OF FAVORING THE CGTP OVER RIVAL APRA-ORIENTED CTP UNION (IN REGISTRATION OF NEW UNIONS FOR EXAMPLE). THE CGTP IS NOT GREATLY CONCERNED OVER CLEAR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN CTRP UNION,
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SINCE IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT THE CTRP HAS NEITHER CAPABLE

LEADERSHIP NOR A SIGNIFICANT BASE. IN RETURN FOR GOVERNMENT BENEVOLENCE THE CGTP SUPPORTS GOP POLITICAL AIMS AND, IN COOPERATION WITH THE THE CTRP, PROVIDES PRO-GOVERNMENT CLAQUES AND CHEERING SECTIONS REQUEST. ULTIMATE GOP GOAL WITH THIS POLICY IS TO CO-OPT THE CGTP AND ABSORB IT INTO THE REVOLUTION. CGTP PLAYS ALONG ON PREMISE THAT IN FINAL ANALYSIS IT WILL CONTROL THE LABOR SECTOR.

4. A SECOND TRACK ALONG WHICH GOP LABOR PLICY TRAVELS IS MOTIVATED BY GOP REALIZATION THAT CGTP MIGHT DOMINATE THE LABOR SCENE IF NOT CONSTRAINED. IN THIS CONTEXT THE CGTP IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR SOURCE OF ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL LABOR UNREST. THEREFORE, THE LABOR MINISTRY HAS TACITLY PERMITTED DISMISSAL OF CGTP ACTIVISTS IN SEVERAL FACTORIES AND HAS HELPED FRUSTRATE CERTAIN CGTP EFFORTS TO SEIZE CONTROL OF ADDITIONAL UNIONS.

5. VELASCO'S MEETING WITH THE CGTP AT THIS TIME MAY BE PART OF AN EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE MASS SUPPORT FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS AND VELASCO PERSONALLY AT A TIME OF FLUX AND UNCERTAINTY IN THE MILITARY ITSELF. MEETING MAY ALSO BE PART OF GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO SUPPORT PRESENT CGTP LEADERSHIP AND DISCREDIT SUTEP AND THE CGTP LEFT WING BY SLOWING THAT PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE GOP IS THE ONLY WAY UNIONS WILL PROSPER. (CGTP COOPERATION IS BEING GIVEN SOMEWHAT UNDER DURESS; GOP PRESSURE ONLY LAST MONTH FORCED CGTP TO CANCEL GENERAL STRIKE CALL).

6. MEANWHILE FAR LEFT LABOR GROUPS CONTINUE TO ATTACK CGTP LEADERS FOR HAVING SOLD OUT TO THE GOVERNMENT. MILITANT SUTEP TEACHERS UNION. TWO MINOR FEDERATIONS AND OTHER FAR LEFT UNIONS HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO CALL FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE CGTP AND FORMATION OF A CLASSIST UNION. THESE UNIONS AND GROUPS HAVE CALLED FOR A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NOVEMBER 9 TO DISCUSS ABOVE ISSUES

AND SET STAGE FOR TAKEOVER OF CGTP OR ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW MARXIST TRADE UNION.
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